

## ABSTRACT

A method for selectively shunting an acoustic driver within an electronic device  
detects the presence of a squelch signal from a local emitter and automatically shunts the acoustic  
5 driver in response to the detection, free of any communication back to the emitter. The squelch  
signal originates from an emitter which is positioned extrinsic to the device, and can be broadcast  
so as to define a zone of influence within which the acoustic drivers of electronic devices will be  
squelched. In lieu of an acoustic driver, a vibrator can be activated to quietly alert the user of the  
incoming message while the squelch signal is present. As a result, the invention enables a  
10 proprietor to a greater degree of control over ringing and beeping noises generated by such  
devices when positioned within a designated space. A broadcast system for defining the zone of  
influence and electronic devices that include circuitry that implement the method are also  
disclosed.

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